

## Nunes kicks off second annual ag tour for Valley leaders

Rep. Devin Nunes kicked off his second annual Central Valley Ag Tour with more than 45 community and business leaders June 2.

The day-long tour took the group by charter bus to nine locations for a behind-the-scenes look at the nation's most diverse and productive agricultural region.

Traveling with the group this year as the congressman's special guest was California Secretary of Agriculture A.G. Kawamura.

"I think it's important to make sure our decision makers have an opportunity to get out from behind the desk and see what makes this region the envy of the world in terms of ag production," Rep. Nunes said. "At the same time, these decision makers also need to know what challenges our farmers and producers face in maintaining our local economy."

The tour schedule this year included:

- ◆ AgTAC in Tulare—Continental breakfast and tour
- ◆ California Dairies, Inc. in Tipton—The state's top dairy processor
- ◆ Fernandes Dairy in Woodville—Innovative dairy with carousel milking barn
- ◆ Sierra Forest Products in Terra Bella—The last saw mill in the Central Valley using timber from the National Forest
- ◆ LoBue Bros. in Lindsay—Citrus packing plant that uses combination of automation and hand processing
- ◆ Monrovia Nursery— The world leader in ornamental plants
- ◆ DeLeonardis Olive Oil in Ivanhoe—Family operated ranch that produces extra virgin olive oil
- ◆ Cal Gomes Quarter Horses in Visalia—Trains cutting horses that are shipped all over the world
- ◆ Hester Nut Cooperative in Farmersville—Longtime walnut growers and processors
- ◆ AgTAC reception



Top right: Josh Fernandes of Fernandes Dairy talks about the carousel platform that his dairy cows stand on as they are milked with California Secretary of Agriculture A.G. Kawamura. The cows are milked three times a day. The dairy is made up of 4,500 acres of farm ground with 3,500 head of milk cows and 3,000 head of replacement stock.

Middle right: Visalia City Manager Steve Salomon and Lindsay City Councilman Daniel Salinas sample some of the Extra Virgin Olive Oil varieties produced by DeLeonardis Olive Oil in Ivanhoe. There are seven different varieties of olives grown and processed by the family-owned operation.

Bottom right: At California Dairies, Inc. in Tipton, a robotic arm prepares to pick up a bag of dried milk powder and stack it on a pallet nearby. CDI is the top dairy cooperative in the nation with more than 680 producers who supply more than 14 billion pounds of milk for shipment or processing annually.

